

East Joins West in Truly Global Concert

By Joshua Kosman
Chronicle Staff Writer

In an inspired combination of 19th century music and 20th century technology, one orchestra and three choruses, spread across two continents, joined forces last night for a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

The concert, titled "Music and Peace '88," brought a symphony orchestra in Montreal together with choruses in San Mateo, Geneva and Moscow, in a global concert hall created by a satellite hook-up.

The Ninth Symphony, whose concluding "Ode to Joy" is a call for universal brotherhood among all humanity, helped reinforce the sense of global unity.

The World Philharmonic Orchestra, a four-year-old group that includes over 100 players from 60 countries, was conducted by Francoise LeGrand in Montreal's Philharmonic Hall.

Meanwhile, the three choruses' performances were beamed to Montreal and displayed on large screens at the back of the stage. The entire concert in turn was broadcast to a handful of "downlink" sites in San Francisco, New York City, Washington, D.C., Sydney, Tokyo and elsewhere.

San Francisco's Masterworks Choral, under its founder Galen Marshall, performed at the College of San Mateo. The other choruses were the Russian State Academic Choir in Moscow and the Choir of Suisse Romande in Geneva.

In San Francisco, the concert was shown at two locations at Fort Mason.

Inside Green's restaurant, attendees who had donated \$15 to the International



BY SAM FORENICH/THE CHRONICLE

Joseph Goldin, the Soviet citizen who created the 'spacebridge' concert, was interviewed at Fort Mason

Red Cross for relief efforts in the wake of the Armenian earthquake sipped wine and munched hors d'oeuvres as they watched the concert on several large-screen monitors.

Outside, near Pier 2, the concert was on display on an 18-by-20-foot screen, free for all comers.

During the early part of the concert, featuring Beethoven's "Leonore" Overture No. 2, the scene in Green's was like any cocktail party for a good cause, with

people casually chatting and eating. After the first movement of the Ninth Symphony, however, the crowd was relocated outside, and attention was focused on the screen.

The concert began at 5 p.m. California time, and the choral part of the Ninth got under way about 6:15. That meant the Geneva chorus began singing at 3:15 a.m., and the Moscow chorus at 5:15 a.m.

The satellite bridge is the work of Megavision, an organization founded by Joseph Goldin, a Soviet idealist and maverick.

Following the concert, Goldin spoke enthusiastically to the satellite audience, calling the concert "the first global town meeting."

Earlier, he had spoken of his desire to "expand the walls of the concert hall." For his next project, Goldin foresees joining musicians on five continents. "You could have a violinist in one country playing a concerto with an orchestra in another country. Or a conductor and orchestra in different countries. The possibilities are endless."